GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2240
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps the Government propose to take to encourage development of Food Processing Sector;

(b) the reasons for not fixing any targets in this sector;

(c) whether there is any proposal for liberal, assured and easier finance for this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) & (b): Food processing sector has been accorded priority attention by the Government. However, since food processing includes both in the organised and unorganised sectors, no specific financial or physical targets could be set by the Government. However, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its Plan schemes provides financial assistance to private industries, public sector undertakings, non-Governmental organizations, co-operatives, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions, etc., for the development of Food Processing Sector.

(c) & (d): Food processing industries have been included in the list of priority sector for bank lending. Approval for foreign direct investment in automatic route is available for most of the processed food items except alcohol and beer and those reserved for small scale sector, subject to certain conditions.